



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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Fire Island National Seashore Fire Management Plan Available for Public Review

Patchogue, NY— The National Park Service (NPS) today announced that a wildfire management plan for Fire Island National Seashore will be available for public review. According to Fire Island National Seashore's acting park superintendent, Barry Sullivan, the 30-day public review period will be open through January 15, 2005.

National Park Service policy requires that all national parks with vegetation capable of sustaining wildland fire have a Fire Management Plan in place. Fire Island National Seashore is composed of several vegetative zones: beach grass, low and high shrub, maritime forest, and a mixed hardwood forest; therefore, a wildland fire plan is required.

Fire Island's plan addresses wildland fire suppression, and proposes using fire as a tool to manage small areas of the park's historic landscape. The plan addresses the use of fire, a process known as prescribed fire, as a tool for vegetation management. Providing for human safety and the protection of property and cultural and natural resources is a critical component of a prescribed fire program. Prescribed fire will be one element of a much broader vegetation management program already in place at the park.

As part of the National Park Service's procedures to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the draft fire plan and environmental assessment are being made available for public review at park headquarters in Patchogue and at the Patchogue-Medford Library, South Country Library in Bellport, and Shirley-Mastic-Moriches Community Library. Both draft documents are also available on the web:

www.nps.gov/fiis/DraftFireManagementPlan2004.pdf
www.nps.gov/fiis/FireManagementPlan2004_EA.pdf.

Park goals for fire management include human safety, suppression and prevention of all undesirable wildland fires, protection of natural and cultural resources, reduction of hazardous fuel loads, and control of invasive and exotic vegetation. There is also a component of fire research to evaluate the effects of fire on native and non-native plant species.

To learn more about wildland fire management in the National Park Service, visit www.nps.gov/fire. For more information about Fire Island National Seashore, visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/fiis.
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